

7.2 Child Safety

Tulare Public Library welcomes children of all ages. The Library is a public building and, as such, everyone is welcome. We ask patrons to help us keep the Library a safe and pleasant place for children by adhering to the following policies:

Parents are reminded that they are responsible for supervising their children's access to Library materials. While the staff members are always available to lead young people to interesting materials selected with children's interests and needs in mind, it shall be assumed that children who visit the Library unattended are authorized to use the full range of materials available to all library patrons.

Unwelcomed interaction with minors is prohibited in the Library. Parents should speak to their child(ren) about personal safety. Children should know they can always come to a library staff member if another person makes them feel threatened or uncomfortable.

All computers are filtered to block websites with adult content, including but not limited to those with sexual themes. No filter is fool-proof, however. If a patron is on a website that library staff deems inappropriate, they will be asked to exit the site immediately. Attempts to return to the same sites or bypass the filtering system may result in loss of computer privileges. We advise parents and guardians to refer to the library's [*Internet Safety for Parent's and Minor's*](#) guidelines for more information on Internet safety for children.

Children under 5 may use computers when supervised by a parent/guardian. In the children's area, use of computers is limited to children 12 years and under. In the teen's area, use of computers is limited to teens aged 13-17.

Children must know how to reach an adult in case of an emergency. Both children and adults should be aware of library hours. At closing time, the Tulare Police Department will be notified to escort unattended children from the library. Children must also follow the [*Customer Rules of Conduct*](#) established by Tulare Public Library.

See excerpt below:

- Leaving children unattended anywhere on the library premises if they cannot care for themselves or if such children interfere with or disrupt other patrons' use of the library
- Staff are not responsible for monitoring unattended children

In order to create a safe and comfortable environment for youth, the Library reserves areas designated for youth and their families, this includes our family restroom. Adults are not allowed in the youth areas of the library unless they are with their children or using the collection for a legitimate reason (e.g. parents or care givers retrieving materials for a homework assignment, teachers gathering materials for a class, etc.).

The one exception is the use of the Family Restroom, which, as it is a single user, has been designated as a Unisex facility.